IBMA2026 WOB BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

***The sessions below require registration for the IBMA Business Conference. Ramble access is included with your registration.**

Time	Session	Room
8 AM – 6 PM	**Pre-Registration Pickup & Onsite Sales**	CCC Main Lobby
8 AM – 10 PM	**Media Room Open**	CCC 20
8 AM – 10 PM	**Instrument Check / Lost & Found Open**	CCC 21
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	**Tai Chi with Jim Lauderdale** Jim Lauderdale is not only a prolific songwriter, but he is also a studied student of Martial Arts and Tai Chi. Jim will lead you in a series of low-impact warm-up exercises that will help stretch your body and gently strengthen your back, shoulders, and your mind. Be sure to dress comfortably for maximum movement.	CCC 18-19
9 AM – 10 AM	**Leadership Bluegrass Masterclass** **Growing Up in Bluegrass: Developing Practical Tools for Intergenerational Communities** A facilitated working session where Leadership Bluegrass alumni and attendees break into small groups by sector and work through a structured worksheet to begin drafting community guidelines. The output from this session becomes live input for Session Two.	CCC 5-6
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	**Women's Council Meeting**	CCC 1
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	**Bluegrass in the Archives** **Legacy Track** This session brings together archivists from regional institutions, including the Country Music Hall of Fame, Center for Popular Music, and Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum, to discuss bluegrass-related holdings in their archival collections. The goal is to highlight and describe these collections while encouraging researchers to explore and access the materials. A Q&A will follow the presentation.	CCC 3
10 AM - 10 PM	**Youth Room Open for Jamming** *presented by Sound Biscuit Productions*	CCC Exhibit Hall A
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	**Mojo's Band Coaching Workshop** Returning for more than a decade, Stephen Mougin brings back this popular workshop to “dial in” the ensemble sound. Working with a live band, he breaks down musical and performance concepts, explaining the hows and whys behind what he hears and how he addresses each challenge. Audience members will have multiple opportunities to ask questions throughout the session.	CCC McKenzie Stage
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	**Volunteers Make the Festival Go 'Round** **Talent Buyer Track** Volunteers are among the most important assets for festivals	CCC 12

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

Time	Session	Room
	and music venues. This panel-led roundtable discussion will cover topics such as strategies for recruiting and retaining volunteers, types of job assignments, ensuring volunteers show up when scheduled, finding qualified individuals for skilled positions, types of benefits and perks offered, and more.	
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	**Beyond the Festival: University & Community Partnerships** Bluegrass artists are often limited to traditional touring and festival circuits, yet universities and civic organizations represent powerful, underutilized revenue opportunities. This session explores a replicable partnership model for building relationships with higher education institutions, packaging performances with educational programming, and creating sustainable rural-to-campus pipelines. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for diversifying income, expanding audiences, and developing long-term institutional partnerships.	CCC 13
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	**Financial Confidence for Touring Musicians** Hear how working musicians can work toward an eventual retirement. This session will include discussions on business structure, tax-advantaged savings, and overall financial planning.	CCC 1
12 PM - 2 PM	**Gig Fair**	CCC 5-6
2 PM - 3 PM	**Song Circles** **Songwriter Track** It wouldn't be the IBMA Songwriter track without song circles! Bring your latest material and experience incredible music from your fellow writers. Countless co-writes and lasting industry relationships have started right here in these circles; we can't wait to hear what you've been writing!	CCC 14
2 PM – 3 PM	**Print, Media & Education Constituency Meeting**	CCC 1
2 PM – 3 PM	**Events and Associations Constituency Meeting**	CCC 2
2 PM – 3 PM	**Recording, Distribution & Marketing Constituency Meeting**	CCC 11
2 PM - 3:15 PM	**International Showcase** *presented by Bluegrass in La Roche* 2 PM – 2:30 PM Under the Rocks (CA) 2:45 PM – 3:15 PM Country Gongbang (KR)	CCC McKenzie Stage
2:10 PM - 3:40 PM	**DJ & Artist Networking Reception** *Cash bar*	CCC Hallway
2:10 PM - 3:40 PM	**Songwriter Meet & Greet Networking Reception** *Cash bar*	CCC Hallway
2:10 PM - 3:40 PM	**Agent & Talent Buyer Networking Reception** *Cash bar*	CCC Hallway
4 PM - 5 PM	**Keynote Address** *presented by Turnberry Records, in partnership with IBMA Official Media Partner, The Bluegrass Situation* Join Tim Stafford for his keynote, "From AI to G-Runs," as he reflects on the momentous changes in bluegrass since his last IBMA keynote in 1994 and considers what they mean for the future of our music. The keynote begins with a special	CCC Riverview Stage

Time	Session	Room
	performance by Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen, setting the stage for an afternoon of music, ideas, and conversation.	
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	**IBMA World of Bluegrass Kickoff Party *presented by WUTC 88.1*** Kick off IBMA Bluegrass Ramble with the Litch Brothers! Join us for an evening of live music, good company, and a celebration of the week ahead. The party starts at 5:30PM, with music beginning at 6PM.	Barrelhouse Ballroom
5:40 PM - 11 PM	**IBMA Bluegrass Ramble** Official Showcase *presented by Coca Cola Bottling Company UNITED-CHATTANOOGA*	Various Venues

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

IBMA2026 BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

***The sessions below require registration for the IBMA Business Conference. Ramble access is included with your registration.**

Time	Session	Room
8 AM – 6 PM	**Pre-Registration Pickup & Onsite Sales**	CCC Main Lobby
8 AM – 10 PM	**Media Room Open**	CCC 20
8 AM – 10 PM	**Instrument Check / Lost & Found Open**	CCC 21
9 AM – 10 AM	**Modern Approaches to Bluegrass and Old-Time Education** Learn to jam, sing harmony, and build your bluegrass and old-time jam community through innovative methods and technologies. This workshop is great for learners, educators, and associations or organizations that support bluegrass education. The workshop will explore SingBluegrassHarmony.com, Janie's Jumpstarts, and the Wernick Method.	CCC McKenzie Stage
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	**Passing it on: Place-based Traditional Music Education** Discover best practices for building community, preserving cultural traditions, and supporting the future of bluegrass through Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM). JAM's community-based program model and resources are designed to support vital cultural arts education, as well as career sustainability for instructors and young artists through the JAM Teacher Certification Program, partnerships with major festivals, and much more.	CCC 1
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	**The Expanding Role of Festivals** Remember when festivals offered primitive camping, porta-potties, no running water, hot dogs and hamburgers, and only one stage? Nowadays, festival-goers expect increased programming that includes kid zones, hands-on workshops, organized jams, wellness activities, community-building opportunities, and more, as well as amenities such as showers, flush toilets, charging stations, and diverse food options to meet a variety of dietary needs and preferences. How are festivals large and small meeting these demands, and what do we see coming in the future?	CCC 3
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	**Bluegrass Unlimited 60th Anniversary** **Legacy Track**	CCC 12
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	**Taking Bluegrass Where It Isn't** The traditional bluegrass festival scene is ever-evolving, and the industry has a good grasp on that market. But what about PACs, clubs, roots festivals, and other opportunities that are completely off the cuff? Join three of the industry's top managers, booking agents, and event producers as they explore the world outside the bluegrass festival circuit. You don't have to change your style to work a broader venue base. These industry professionals will share strategies for taking bluegrass where it normally isn't and being successful with it.	CCC 2

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

IBMA2026 WOB BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Time	Session	Room
9:50 AM - 10:50 AM	**Getting Your Song in Front of Decision Makers** **Songwriter Track** For non-touring songwriters, writing a great song is only half the battle. The struggle is often getting it into the right hands. In this interactive session, a panel of top song pluggers and working songwriters pull back the curtain on how successful pitches actually happen. For non-touring songwriters, writing a great song is only half the battle. The struggle is often getting it into the right hands. In this interactive session, a panel of top song pluggers and working songwriters pull back the curtain on how successful pitches actually happen.	CCC 13
10 AM - 10 PM	**Youth Room Open for Jamming** *presented by Sound Biscuit Productions*	CCC Exhibit Hall A
10:40 AM - 11:40 AM	**Making a Living in Bluegrass - It Isn't What You Think!** Many people assume that making a living in bluegrass simply means playing in a band. The reality is far more complex. For the overwhelming majority of professional musicians, even those performing with the genre's most successful bands, earning a sustainable income requires wearing many hats. It often means balancing touring with a steady day job, whether in a related or unrelated field, while piecing together multiple income streams in the hope that, by year's end, they add up to a living.	CCC 3
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	**Leadership Bluegrass Masterclass** **Growing Up in Bluegrass: A Dialogue on Intergenerational Bluegrass Communities** A moderated panel and community discussion building on what Tuesday's session produced. The session closes with a presentation of the draft Healthy Intergenerational Bluegrass Community Framework, a practical, one-page resource that organizations across the bluegrass world can adapt and use.	CCC 12
11 AM - 5 PM	**Exhibit Hall Open** *presented by C.F. Martin & Co.*	CCC Exhibit Hall B-D
11 AM - 12 PM	**Hope in Harmony: Road to Recovery** Hear how recovery can work in everyday life and on the road, and how music can be an inspiration rather than a trigger. This session will offer hope and insight for professionals in recovery.	CCC 13
11:50 AM - 12:50 PM	**Y'all Come: Accessibility, Inclusion & Community** This panel explores what it truly means to create inclusion and belonging in the bluegrass community through the perspectives of artists, venue owners, nonprofit leaders, and presenters. We'll have authentic conversations about being BIPOC- and queer-friendly, welcoming neurodivergent community members, and creating accessible venues, offering honest connection and a glimpse of what belonging looks like in action. You won't leave with a handbook. You'll leave understanding why this work matters and knowing how we can each help build more welcoming communities.	CCC 3
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	**Play for a Pro** Five bands and artists will be selected to play for industry	CCC McKenzie Stage

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

IBMA2026 WOB BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Time	Session	Room
	professionals and receive valuable feedback. Participants are selected on a first-come, first-served basis, with each artist or band performing a song of less than four minutes. Sign up to participate at https://form.jotform.com/262506142581049!	
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM	**From Tradition to Tomorrow: Marketing Bluegrass Today** As bluegrass continues to evolve while staying rooted in tradition, the way artists connect with fans is changing just as quickly. This panel explores what music marketing looks like in 2026 and beyond through the lens of the bluegrass and roots community. Industry professionals will discuss how artists, managers, labels, and festivals can build sustainable careers in a crowded digital landscape without losing authenticity. Topics include fan-first storytelling, aligning touring and release strategies, the role of short- and long-form content, data-informed decision-making, and how community, collaboration, and trust remain the foundation of successful marketing in roots music. Designed for attendees at every level, this session focuses on practical takeaways, real-world examples, and strategies that respect the culture of bluegrass while preparing for what's next.	CCC 12
2 PM - 4 PM	**IBMA Momentum Awards *presented by Fletcher Bright Realty*** The IBMA Momentum Awards recognize artists and business people in the early years of their bluegrass music careers. This event will feature awards presentations and performances by Momentum Band of the Year nominees. Join us to support and celebrate emerging talent in the bluegrass community.	CCC Banquet Hall E-J
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM	**DEI Town Hall**	CCC 16-17
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM	**Love It or Shove It: The Present and Future of AI Demos** **Songwriter Track** Among all the uses of artificial intelligence, few have been more divisive than song-demo production. Some songwriters have embraced the platform for its efficiency of time and cost; others reject it as a matter of ethics. Many labels, publishing companies, and artists are drawing their own lines in the sand. Addressing the elephant in the room, this panel will discuss the impact of Suno and similar AI platforms on all areas of the bluegrass industry.	CCC 13
4:15 PM - 5:30 PM	**International Showcase** *presented by Bluegrass in La Roche* 4:15 PM – 4:45 PM Cam & Jay (CA) 5 PM – 5:30 PM Veranda (CA)	CCC McKenzie Stage
5:40 PM - 11 PM	**IBMA Bluegrass Ramble Official Showcase** *presented by Coca Cola Bottling Company UNITED-CHATTANOOGA*	Various Venues

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

IBMA2026 WOB BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 22, 2026

***The sessions below require registration for the IBMA Business Conference.**

Time	Session	Room
8 AM – 6 PM	**Pre-Registration Pickup & Onsite Sales**	CCC Main Lobby
8 AM – 10 PM	**Media Room Open**	CCC 20
8 AM - 10 PM	**Instrument Check / Lost & Found Open**	CCC 21
9 AM - 10:30 AM	**IBMA Town Hall** The IBMA is more than just an office in Nashville—it's a global network of over 2,500 people dedicated to the business of bluegrass music. Join the IBMA Board of Directors and fellow members for a conversation about the current state and future of the industry.	CCC 16-17
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM	**Know Your P.R.O.** As music consumption has shifted from radio to online streaming, songwriters need to know how to protect their revenue streams generated by song cuts. Panelists will explain the role of Performing Rights Organizations (PROs)—such as BMI, ASCAP, and SESAC—in maintaining records and ensuring affiliated songwriters, composers, and music publishers receive every dollar they earn. Experienced writers and label executives will walk through the step-by-step process writers follow to navigate the enigmatic roadmap of rights monetization.	CCC 13
9:15 AM - 10:45 AM	**Picking for the Prize Guitar Contest with Luke Black** *presented by C.F. Martin & Co.* Five flatpicking finalists compete for a coveted Grand Prize package that includes a Molly Tuttle D-18 Martin guitar and a guaranteed spot in the 2027 National Flat Picking Championship at the famed Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas.	CCC McKenzie Stage
10 AM – 10 PM	**Youth Room Open for Jamming** *presented by Sound Biscuit Productions*	CCC Exhibit Hall A
11 AM - 1 PM	**IBMA Industry & Distinguished Achievement Awards Luncheon** presented by *Benwood Foundation* Join us for lunch as the IBMA recognizes outstanding work in non-performing industry categories with the IBMA Industry Awards. This catered event will feature presentations of the seven Industry Awards categories, a special presentation of the IBMA Distinguished Achievement Award honorees, and live music.	CCC Banquet Hall E-J
1 PM- 5 PM	**Exhibit Hall Open** *presented by C.F. Martin & Co.*	CCC Exhibit Hall B-D
1 PM - 2 PM	**Agents, Managers, and Publicists Constituency Meeting**	CCC 1
1 PM - 2 PM	**International Constituency Meeting**	CCC 2
1 PM – 2 PM	**Broadcast Media Constituency Meeting**	CCC 11
1:15 PM - 2:30 PM	**International Showcase** *presented by Bluegrass in La Roche* 1:15 PM – 1:45 PM Cameron Nickerson (CA) 2 PM – 2:30 PM Chris Eaton (UK)	CCC McKenzie Stage

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

IBMA2026 WOB BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Time	Session	Room
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	**John Duffey: The Father of Modern Bluegrass** The powerful leadership of John Duffey changed the way bluegrass music was presented and performed. His approach to the music business brought a level of commercial success that had been lacking in the bluegrass world. In 1973, bluegrass promoter Carlton Haney bestowed on John the title "The Father of Modern Bluegrass." Although John managed the business and emceed the shows, he modestly did not want to be called the leader of his two main bands, The Country Gentlemen of the 1950s and 60s and The Seldom Scene of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s.	CCC 3
1:20 PM - 2:20 PM	**The Sit-Down** **Songwriter Track** This is your shot at real, unfiltered, face-time with a music industry professional, just you and someone who's been in the rooms you're trying to get into. Each session is timed, so come ready: pitch a song or bring the question that's been gnawing at you for the past year: how publishing deals actually work, what makes a catalog stand out, how to build your brand as a writer, how to network without feeling sleazy. Whatever it is, make it count. Industry pros don't sit still for long; when you get the seat, take it.	CCC 12
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	**Paducah's Laying Around the Bend: The Mary Wheeler Collection** The bluegrass songbook draws from numerous sources, including river lore. The McCracken County Public Library in Paducah, KY, houses one of the world's largest collections of American inland waterways songs. Learn about musicologist Mary Wheeler, the river laborers whose songs she collected, and how these songs connect to bluegrass.	CCC 16-17
2 PM - 3:30 PM	**Reception to Honor Recipients of IBMA Foundation Grant and Scholarships** *sponsored by Jim and Kathy Kortge*	CCC 4
2:15 PM – 3:45 PM	**DJ Taping Sessions**	CCC 14
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	**The Bluegrass Scene in Japan** *presented by Ear Trumpet Labs* Are you a bluegrass performer considering a tour in Japan? Or a fan who would like to attend bluegrass performances, jams, or festivals there? Hear from bluegrass musicians who have toured in Japan and learn about festivals and events. Discover the long history of bluegrass in Japan, dating back to the 1940s, and the passionate bluegrass subculture that continues to thrive there.	CCC 13
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	**Having Your Act Together: Creating Your Online Universe** A panel consisting of a record label representative (Stephen Mougin), promoter, booking agent, and publicist/media representative will review the online presence of three bands. The panel will focus on each artist's website and social media, including video content, EPKs, and more. Each panelist will share the specific elements they look for on these platforms, highlight what each artist is doing well, and identify areas that could use improvement. Panelists include Zach Taylor, Jana Mougin, Nancy Posey, and Helen Ludé.	CCC 3
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	**If I Knew What I Know Now** Three veteran musicians and band leaders come together to discuss the obstacles, triumphs, good decisions, and mistakes they have	CCC 12

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

Time	Session	Room
	encountered over 30 years in the music business. Learn from some of the greats who have powered through whatever came their way and hear the lessons they've learned along the way. The moderator will guide the conversation with questions, with plenty of opportunities for attendees to ask questions as well.	
2:40 PM - 3:40 PM	**Blues & Bluegrass: A Root and Branch of a Uniquely American Art Form** Originating in the Deep South, the blues blended West African rhythms with spirituals and work songs. Pioneering Black artists popularized this foundational genre, which went on to heavily influence nearly every form of American music. Ultimately, uniquely American genres like bluegrass would not exist without this vital African American musical tradition.	CCC 2
2:45 PM - 4:15 PM	**IBMA Songwriter Showcase** **Songwriter Track**	CCC McKenzie Stage
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	**New Song Critique** **Songwriter Track**	CCC McKenzie Stage

IBMA2026 WOB BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Friday, October 23, 2026

***The sessions below are free and open to the public.**

Time	Session	Room
8 AM - 10 PM	**Media Room Open**	CCC 20
8 AM - 10 PM	**Youth Council Jam Room Open** *presented by Sound Biscuit Productions*	CCC 11
8 AM – 10 PM	**Instrument Check / Lost & Found Open**	CCC 21
10 AM- 12 PM	**Bluegrass Pride Jam Room Open** *presented by Ear Trumpet Labs*	CCC 18-19
10 AM – 11 AM	**Don't Call Me Darlin': Building a Living Archive of Women in Bluegrass** **Legacy Track**	CCC 13
10 AM - 10 PM	**Youth Room Open for Jamming** *presented by Sound Biscuit Productions*	CCC Exhibit Hall A
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM	**Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame Class of 2026** *presented by the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum* **Legacy Track**	CCC 3
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM	**Honoring the Career of Louisa Branscomb** **Songwriter Track** For more than 50 years, Louisa Branscomb has been charting new paths in the bluegrass and folk music world. She embarked on a career as a full-time songwriter in 1971 as a full-time songwriter and guitarist, then banjoist, fronting one of the first all-female banks. She went on to co-lead Boot Hill, as the first woman to front a band playing banjo, and writing much of the band's materials. Before age 27, she had recorded 3 albums of mostly original music, and her first charting bluegrass songs. Her song "Steel Rails," which appeared on Allison Krauss's first Grammy album and John Denver's last, has found its place in the bluegrass canon, as one of the longest-running #1 hits and most-played songs in the genre. It ranks #13 in XM's Top 75 most influential songs in the bluegrass genre, and one of only a few by women. A member of the Alabama Bluegrass Hall of Fame and the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame, Branscomb has penned over 50 top-10 songs recorded by such artists as Krauss, Denver, Dale Ann Bradley, Claire Lynch, and Branscomb herself, and recorded 16 albums featuring original material. Distinctions include 2 Song of the Year Awards ("Steel Rails" and "Dear Sister"), two IBMA Recorded Event Awards, and the IBMA Distinguished Achievement Award for contributions as a songwriter, performer, and mentor that have "expanded the bluegrass genre." She holds 7 nominations for Songwriter of the Year (between IBMA and SPGBMA), and 5 nominations for IBMA Mentor of the Year. Branscomb was the founding member of the IBMA Songwriter	CCC 12

Time	Session	Room
	Committee and Songwriter of the Year Award, creating the template for many of the events that continue to this day, including the mentor program and song circles. Branscomb has mentored over 800 songwriters at all skill levels using a uniquely holistic, artist-centered approach. Drawing on both her musical career and her background in clinical psychology, she has led the longest running bluegrass retreat series (est. 1989) hosted at Asheville's Lyric Mountain Songwriter Retreat. Through her non-profit, the ScreenDoor Songwriter Alliance, she now brings the therapeutic power of songwriting to veterans, youth at risk, and communities rebuilding after crises. Louisa's 2018 Compass release "Gonna Love Anyway" broke records by debuting at #1 and #2 in bluegrass and folk, respectively, and commanded charts for over 15 months, with 5 top-10 songs and nomination for Album of the Year. Recently, Branscomb survived a medical crisis that left her without a heartbeat for 3 days and a 50-50 chance of survival. Her response was to return to pioneer yet more new horizons, recording two boundary-testing albums and resuming her 37th year of workshops. She will soon be revealing her new record, which has been called "profound, genius, and a lifetime opus" by previewing industry professionals. Join us in celebrating her legacy of songwriting and pioneering service, and enjoy hearing many of her beloved songs, that reveal the "full rainbow of human emotions, in all their flawed glory," more than any other writer of the times. (David McGhee, *Engine 145*). During the session Louisa will talk about her life in music and perform her hit songs, backed by veteran and award-winning musicians Johnny Williams, Jeanette Williams, and master banjoist Jody King.	
10:30 AM - 1 PM	**Bluegrass Jam Class – Bring Your Instruments with Pete Wernick** Pete Wernick will again present two 2.5 hour classes with instruction on bluegrass jamming. Open to all levels and all bluegrass instruments, the classes will include an hour of instruction for beginners, followed by opportunities for everyone to jam in small circles with experienced coaches.	CCC 16-17
10:40 AM – 11:20 AM	**Academic Poster Session with Opportunity to Meet the Scholars**	CCC 1
11 AM - 6 PM	**Exhibit Hall Open** *presented by C.F. Martin & Co.*	CCC Exhibit Hall B-D
11 AM - 1:45 PM	**International Showcase** *presented by Bluegrass in La Roche* 11 AM – 11:30 AM Anya Hinkle (US/JP) 11:45 AM – 12:15 PM Ondra Kozák (CZ) 12:30 AM – 1 PM Leona (JP) 1:15 PM – 1:45 PM Kristy Cox (AU/US)	CCC McKenzie Stage

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

IBMA2026 BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Time	Session	Room
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	**Songwriter Mentor Session** Back by popular demand, this session offers one-on-one time between songwriters and industry mentors. Participants are invited to get feedback on the craft, talk co-writing and collaboration, or ask direct questions about the music business. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, email mikemitchellband@gmail.com by October 1.	CCC 4
12 PM - 1 PM	**Tai Chi with Jim Lauderdale** Jim Lauderdale is not only a prolific songwriter, but he is also a studied student of Martial Arts and Tai Chi. Jim will lead you in a series of low-impact warm-up exercises that will help stretch your body and gently strengthen your back, shoulders, and your mind. Be sure to dress comfortably for maximum movement.	CCC 18-19
12:20 PM - 1:20 PM	**Blue Highway 30th Anniversary** Celebrating three decades of Blue Highway, Tim Stafford and Wayne Taylor offer an inside look at the band's history and lasting impact on bluegrass music. Through personal stories and musical insight, they'll reflect on how the group has navigated the balance between innovation and tradition. This session offers a rare opportunity to hear directly from two of the genre's most respected voices.	CCC 13
1 PM- 10 PM	**Bluegrass Pride Jam Room** *presented by Ear Trumpet Labs*	CCC 18-19
1:30 PM – 3 PM	**Academic Session 1**	CCC 1
3:30 PM – 5 PM	**Academic Session 2**	CCC 1
2 PM – 6 PM	**Workshops** 2 PM Banjo Workshop (Kristin Scott Benson and Jake Burrows) 3 PM Bass Workshop (Mike Bub and Gary Trivette) 4 PM Dobro Workshop (Matt Leadbetter and Daniel Norton) 5 PM Mandolin Workshop (Jesse Smathers, Nick Chandler, and Scott Napier)	CCC McKenzie Stage
5 PM – 7:20 PM	**Kids on Bluegrass Bands** *presented by Sound Biscuit Productions*	CCC Next Generation Stage
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	**College Bands**	CCC Next Generation Stage

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.

IBMA2026 BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 24, 2026

***The sessions below are free and open to the public.**

Time	Session	Room
8 AM - 10 PM	**Media Room Open**	CCC 20
8 AM - 10 PM	**Youth Council Jam Room Open** *presented by Sound Biscuit Productions*	CCC 11
8 AM - 11 PM	**Instrument Check / Lost & Found Open**	CCC 21
9 AM – 10 AM	**Tai Chi with Jim Lauderdale** Jim Lauderdale is not only a prolific songwriter, but he is also a studied student of Martial Arts and Tai Chi. Jim will lead you in a series of low-impact warm-up exercises that will help stretch your body and gently strengthen your back, shoulders, and your mind. Be sure to dress comfortably for maximum movement.	CCC 18-19
10 AM - 10 PM	**Bluegrass Pride Jam Room Open** *presented by Ear Trumpet Labs*	CCC 18-19
10 AM - 10 PM	**Youth Room Open for Jamming** *presented by Sound Biscuit Productions*	CCC Exhibit Hall A
10:30 AM - 1 PM	**Bluegrass Jam Class – Bring Your Instruments with Pete Wernick** Pete Wernick will again present two 2.5 hour classes with instruction on bluegrass jamming. Open to all levels and all bluegrass instruments, the classes will include an hour of instruction for beginners, followed by opportunities for everyone to jam in small circles with experienced coaches.	CCC 16-17
11 AM - 1:45 PM	**International Showcase** *presented by Bluegrass in La Roche* 11 AM – 11:30 AM NEWGRASSLANDS (CN) 11:45 AM – 12:15 PM The Unfaithful Servants (CA) 12:30 PM – 1 PM Veranda (CA) 1:15 PM – 1:45 PM Jean-Baptiste Cardineau (FR/US)	CCC McKenzie Stage
11 AM - 6 PM	**Exhibit Hall Open** *presented by C.F. Martin & Co.*	CCC Exhibit Hall B-D
2 PM - 5 PM	**Workshops** 2 PM Fiddle Workshop (Austin Scelzo, Layla Cantafio, and Ondra Kozák) 3 PM Vocal Workshop (Johnny & Jeanette Williams and Jay Shelton) 4 PM Guitar Workshop (Kenny Smith, Rick Faris, and Spencer Atkinson)	CCC McKenzie Stage

Schedule subject to change. Download the IBMA World of Bluegrass app for the latest updates. Available soon in the app stores.